

PRESS RELEASE

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Holly Whitaker
whitaker.h@whiteroseacademies.org
www.whiteroseacademies.org
@WRAcademies

The Parliamentary Review 2018 – A Year in Perspective

The White Rose Academies Trust – leading the way in Education!

Chaired by Sir Eric Pickles (former Conservative Communities Secretary) and Lord Blunkett (former Labour Home Secretary), The Parliamentary Review is a series of independent publications, which aims to share best practice among policy makers and business leaders.

By combining commentaries from award-winning journalists with innovative thinking from industry experts, The Parliamentary Review provides a comprehensive summary of the past year and a reliable template for the year to come.

Each of its editions focuses on a key governmental policy area, with a variety of organisations sharing personal insight alongside cabinet ministers, government agencies, associations and trade bodies.

The policy area for one edition is Secondary Education, giving a comprehensive picture of the state of secondary education currently, and the head teachers who are leading the way in best practice from the north of England to the south, **The White Rose Academies Trust is delighted to be the first Multi Academy Trust to have all three of its academies featured in one issue.**

The Trust includes three schools – Leeds City Academy, Leeds East Academy and Leeds West Academy. Executive Principal, Andrew Whitaker, joined the Trust in September 2016, when all three academies were at risk of being placed in ‘Special Measures’. On joining, Andrew made a pledge that all three academies would be judged outstanding by 2020. True to his word, the last two years have seen rapid improvements at all three academies and, following the release of the National League Tables for Secondary Schools in October 2017, the Trust celebrated record-breaking progress across all of its schools.

- Leeds City Academy is currently the fourth most improved school in Yorkshire and secured its best ever GCSE results in Summer 2018.
- Leeds East Academy is now in the top 15% of schools nationally for progress and is the most improved school in Yorkshire, the fourth most improved school in the country.
- Leeds West Academy is the most improved school in the West of Leeds.

Hopefully when the league tables are released in October 2018 the above will still apply or have improved even further.

The improvements made over the last 24 months have led to The Parliamentary Review selecting to feature all three of the White Rose Academies in their latest edition launched on 1st October 2018. The Trust are proud of all the hard work and dedication shown by our students and staff and are also grateful to everyone in our local community for their support in transforming our schools.

White Rose Academies Trust is sponsored by Leeds City College Group of which Andrew Whitaker is also an Executive Leadership Group member.

Christian Wilcocks, Principal of Leeds West Academy, Sarah Carrie, Principal of Leeds East Academy and Jackie Rose, Principal of Leeds City Academy, along with Colin Booth, CEO of Leeds City College Group, sponsor of the White Rose Academies Trust, were all invited to attend the launch event of The Parliamentary Review 2018 which took place at The Banking Hall in London on 1st October 2018. Guest speakers at the event included Broadcaster and Journalist - Julia Hartley-Brewer, Former Economic Secretary to the Treasury - Ed Balls and and Former Chancellor of the Exchequer - George Osborne.

Colin Booth is the CEO of Leeds City College Group, who attended the event last night, said "I am really proud that the success of all three White Rose academies was featured in this years' Parliamentary Review... and it was a great event in London last night celebrating the achievements of the trust and our schools over the last year."

Executive Principal of the White Rose Academies Trust, Andrew Whitaker, commented "The Trust was deeply humbled to be selected as key contributors to the 2018 Parliamentary Review – Secondary Education. All staff, students and the communities we proudly serve will use this special milestone as yet more motivation to create truly world-class schools."

Please visit the link below to read the articles from each of the Academy Principals.

<http://www.theparliamentaryreview.co.uk/editions/secondary-education/secondary-education-yorkshire-and-humber>

NOTES TO THE EDITOR

The White Rose Academies Trust is a local trust dedicated to raising the ambitions and aspirations of young people. It is currently comprised of three academies which occupy sites in the centre, east and west of the city. The Trust is sponsored by **Leeds City College Group**, one of the largest further education providers in the country, which encompasses **Leeds College of Music and Keighley College** within its organisation. Through the College's expertise and national and international networks, our Academies now offer highly desirable employability prospects within education and beyond.

The White Rose Academies Trust is the only truly local Leeds partnership of schools that share the same ethos and that have pathways into Further Education through a special relationship with Leeds City College. The Trust shares a mission with the college to ensure that all students attending the academies have very well-developed employability skills. All WRAT Academies also work in conjunction with local businesses in formal relationships, which commit employers to supporting young people to understand and prepare for the demands of the world of work.

Andrew Whitaker joined White Rose Academies Trust as Executive Principal on 1st September 2016, with a personal determination that all White Rose Academies will become outstanding providers of education to the communities that they serve.

Andrew's recent work includes leading the transformation of Todmorden High School. For more details visit: <https://www.theparliamentaryreview.co.uk/editions/pdfs/TPR2016-Education-Secondary-North.pdf>

For further information regarding the White Rose Academies Trust. Visit: https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/8a2ecc_4320ca1ba57b4c6098bc193e79ce2ce5.pdf

For more information, contact **Holly Whitaker, Digital Communications and Content Officer**, at whitaker.h@whiteroseacademies.org or call **07342673869**.